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(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: COMSAT CORPORATION [US/US]; 6560 Rock Spring Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817 (US).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant *(for US only)*: AGARWAL, Anil, K. [US/US]; 409 Midsummer Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20878 (US).

(74) Agents: KASPER, Alan, J. et al.; Sughrue, Mion, Zinn, MacPeak & Seas, PLLC, Suite 800, 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20037-3202 (US).

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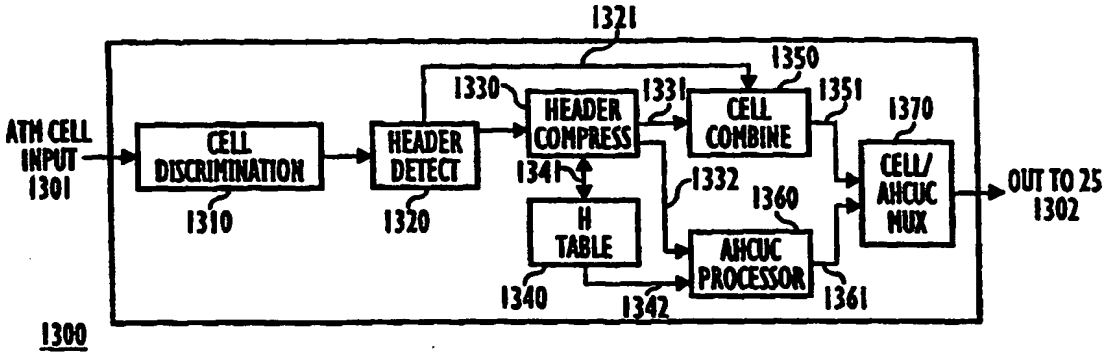

(57) Abstract

An apparatus for compressing the header of ATM cells in order to provide greater bandwidth includes means for discriminating cells/packets (1310), means for detecting header (1320), means for compressing header (1330), means for combining compressed header with payload (1350), means for discriminating compressed header celll/packet (1710), means for detecting header in compressed header and separating header from payload (1720), means for decompressing header (1730), and means for combining decompressed header with payload (1740) to form cell/packets.

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